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LETTER DATED 14 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued on 14 January 1999 following a meeting of senior officials that was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, to consider developments relevant to the aggression committed by the United States and the United Kingdom against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement of 14 January 1999

The President and Leader, Mr. Saddam Hussein, chaired a meeting today, 14 January 1998, that brought together a number of leading officials. A spokesman for the meeting made the following statement:

The approach taken in addressing an issue with a view to resolving it honestly and fairly is important. If that approach is itself fair, then it is possible that subsequent measures and arrangements may also lead to a modicum of fairness. If the contrary is the case, however, there is nothing in terms of justice or fairness to be hoped from the advocates of such an attitude.

Iraq is thus of the view that any approach to a solution concerning Iraq and the other parties should include certain basic elements without which we would regard it, ab initio, as having purposes and objectives that are dishonourable and that offend truth and justice.

I

The double standards applied to all the original and subsequent issues with respect to which Iraq's compliance is sought should be abandoned. This applies to all without exception but primarily to those who committed the recent aggression against Iraq, namely the United States and the United Kingdom. The same requirements and commitments should be sought of the Zionist entity as have been sought of Iraq and the same measures and arrangements should be imposed on it as have been imposed on Iraq, particularly with regard to the usurped rights of the Arabs of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories. This should be done in all cases on the basis of the norms of international law and precedent, not on the basis of a special formula under each separate rubric and for each particular party and not on the basis of the balance of influence and power in Security Council circles or elsewhere, without consideration for justice or fairness.

II

On the basis of these principles, it is our view that:

1. The embargo against Iraq, in all its forms, should be lifted immediately. What has thus far been achieved in connection with the so-called question of weapons of mass destruction is to be considered sufficient and as having met in full the obligations imposed on Iraq in circumstances that are well-known, although there are many countries in the region that possess these weapons. The Zionist entity, for example, possesses all types of such weapons as well as nuclear weapons, which are more dangerous and more lethal. What is forbidden to Iraq must be forbidden to all others without exception, and an immediate start should be made on applying the provisions of paragraph 14 of resolution 687 (1991) to the Zionist entity in the first place.

2. The matter of the compensation due to Iraq because of the aggression to which it was subjected at all stages of hostilities from 1991 to the present should be addressed as well as the question of that sought from Iraq by others on the basis of international law and international precedent, so each may receive his due.

3. It is unjust and unacceptable that Iraq should assume the costs of any of the activities of the United Nations. If any costs are to be apportioned, they must be borne by all the parties concerned.

4. All must respect the sovereignty, security and independence of Iraq in a responsible manner and must refrain from interfering in its internal affairs, first and foremost by eliminating the illegal no-flight zones in the north and south of the country.